WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of producing digital image products in a photofininshing lab, the photofinishing lab having a plurality of image obtaining devices for obtaining a plurality of digital images, a plurality of digital output devices for providing a plurality of digital image products based on the obtained digital images, and a central processing unit, wherein each one of the obtained digital images is related to an original order, the method comprising the steps of:

associating each obtained digital image with identification data;

sending each of said obtained digital images and their associated identification data to the central processing unit, the central processing unit analyzing each of the obtained digital images and comparing said analyzed obtained digital images with reference digital image data representative of an optimum image, said central processing unit further determining an output sequence of each of said obtained digital images to said output devices based on at least the associated identification data;

providing a digital image product based on the obtained digital image at said digital output device; and

combining the digital image product from the output devices with a related original order from said original orders using the associated identification data.

2. A method according to claim 1, comprising the further step of:

manipulating said analyzed obtained digital images based on said reference digital image data.

3. A method according to claim 1, wherein said identification data is product/service data indicative of a type of digital image product for the digital output image, such that the central processing unit modifies the obtained digital images in accordance with the product/service data and the output device to which the obtained digital image is to be sent.

4. A method according to claim 1, wherein said identification data is source data indicative of a source of said obtained digital image.

5. A method according to claim 1, wherein said identification data is a unique consumer/retailer identifier.

6. A method according to claim 1, wherein said identification data is at least one of a product/service data, a source data and a unique consumer/retailer identifier.

7. A method according to claim 1, wherein said identification data is magnetic data written on film.

8. A method according to claim 1, wherein said digital output device is at least one of a thermal printer, an inkjet printer, a laser printer or a digital silver halide printer.

9. A method according to claim 1, comprising the further steps of:

sending prestored digital images to said central processing unit; and

combining selected ones of said obtained digital images and said prestored digital images based on said identification data.

10. A method according to claim 1, wherein said original order comprises digital image data obtained from scanned film.

11. A method according to claim 1, wherein said original order comprises digital image data obtained from physical media

12. A method according to claim 1, wherein said original order comprises digital image data electronically sent to said photofinishing lab.

13. A method according to claim 1, wherein said original order comprises digital image data obtained from a scanned print.

14. A method according to claim 1, wherein said original order is generated from a consumer/retailer.

15. A photofinishing lab for producing digital image products, the photofinishing lab comprising:

a plurality of image obtaining devices for obtaining digital images, each of said digital images being related to original orders;

a plurality of image output devices for providing digital image products based on said obtained digital images, each of the obtained digital images being associated with identification data;

a central processing unit which receives said obtained digital images and the associated identification data, said central processing unit being adapted to analyze the obtained digital images and compare each of said obtained digital images with reference image data representative of an optimum image, said central processing unit being further adapted to determine an output sequence for each of said obtained digital images to said image output devices based on at least the associated identification data; and

a finishing arrangement which is adapted to combine the digital image products from said image output devices with a related original order from said original orders using the associated identification data.

16. A photofinishing lab according to claim 15, wherein said identification data is product/service data indicative of a type of digital image product for the digital output image, such that the central processing unit modifies the obtained digital images in accordance with the product/service data and the output device to which the obtained digital image is to be sent.

17. A photofinishing lab according to claim 15, wherein said identification data is source data indicative of a source of said obtained digital image.

18. A photofinishing lab according to claim 15, wherein said identification data is a unique consumer/retailer identifier.

19. A photofinishing lab according to claim 15, wherein said identification data is at least one of a product /service data, a source data and a unique consumer/retailer identifier.

20. A photofinishing lab according to claim 15, wherein said identification data is magnetic data written on film.

21. A photofinishing lab according to claim 15, further comprising a second image data input source which comprises prestored digital images, said central processing unit being adapted to receive said prestored digital images and combine selected ones of said prestored digital images and said obtained digital images based on said identification data.

22. A photofinishing lab according to claim 15, wherein said original orders comprise digital image data obtained from scanned film.

23. A photofinishing lab according to claim 15, wherein said original orders comprise digital image data obtained from physical media.

24. A photofinishing lab according to claim 15, wherein said original orders comprise digital image data electronically sent to said photofinishing lab.

25. A photofinishing lab according to claim 15, wherein said original orders comprise digital image data obtained from a scanned print.

26. A photofinishing lab according to claim 15, wherein said digital output device is at least one of a thermal printer, an inkjet printer, a laser printer, or a digital silver halide printer.

27. A photofinishing lab according to claim 15, wherein said central processing unit is further adapted to manipulate said analyzed obtained digital images based on said reference digital image data.

28. A photofinishing lab according to claim 15, wherein said original order is generated from a consumer/retailer.

29. A photofinishing method for managing workflow in a photofinishing lab, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving images at the photofinishing lab, each of said images being related to original orders;

associating each image with identification data;

sending each image and its associated identification data to a processing unit, the processing unit analyzing said image with reference to image data representative of an optimum image and determining an output sequence of each of said images to output devices based on at least the associated identification data;

providing an image product based on the image at an output device of said output devices which is appropriate for the image product; and

combining the image product from the output device with a related original order from said original orders using the associated identification data.

30. A method according to claim 29, wherein the output device is at least one of an optical printer, a thermal printer, an inkjet printer, a laser printer or a digital silver halide printer.

31. A method according to claim 29, comprising the further step of manipulating said analyzed obtained image based on said reference image data.

32. A method according to claim 29, wherein said original order is generated from a consumer/retailer.

33. A computer program product comprising:

a computer readable storage medium having a computer program thereon which when loaded into a computer causes the computer to manage workflow in a photofinishing lab by performing the following steps:

associating images received at the photofinishing lab with identification data, each of the images being related to original orders;

sending each image and its associated identification data to a processing unit, the processing unit and determining an output sequence of each of said images to output devices based on at least the associated identification data;

providing an image product based on the image at an output device of said output devices which is appropriate for the image product; and

combining the image product from the output device with a related original order from said original orders using the associated identification data.

34. A computer program product according to claim 33, wherein said identification data is product/service data indicative of a type of image product for the image, such that the images are modified in accordance with the product/service data and the output device to which the image is to be sent.

35. A computer program product according to claim 33, wherein said identification data is source data indicative of a source of said image.

36. A computer program product according to claim 33, wherein said identification data is a unique consumer/retailer identifier.

37. A computer program product according to claim 33, wherein said identification data is at least one of a product/service data, a source data and a unique consumer/retailer identifier.

38. A digital photofinishing arrangement comprising:

a plurality of output devices, each of said output devices being adapted to produce a different output image product;

a plurality of image obtaining devices for obtaining images, at least one of said image obtaining devices being adapted to convert non-digital images of the obtained images into a digital format so as to place all of the obtained images in a common digital format; and

a processing unit which is adapted to create a virtual batch of said obtained images for forwarding to said plurality of output devices, said virtual batch being created based on at least a time necessary to complete the image products, so as to compile a sequence of completion of said output image products that permits efficient use of said output devices.

39. A digital photofinishing lab according to claim 38, wherein said processing unit is further adapted to analyze each of said obtained images for image correction based on at least reference image data.

40. A photofinishing method comprising the steps of:

receiving images at a photofinishing lab;

converting non-digital images of said received images into a digital format, such that all of the images received at said photofinishing lab are in a common digital format; and

creating a virtual batch of said received images based on at least a time necessary to complete output image products at any of a plurality of output devices, each of said output image products being related to an associated received image from said received images, such that a sequence of completion of the output image products that permits efficient use of the output devices is compiled.

41. A method according to claim 40, comprising the further step of comparing said received images to reference image data representative of an optimum image and manipulating said received images based on said reference image data.

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42. A method of managing workflow in a photofinishing lab comprising the steps of:

receiving images at the photofinishing lab;

determining an output service/product which will be produced in association with said received images; and

creating a virtual batch of said received images based on at least the output service/product associated with the received image, said virtual batch being indicative of an order sequence for completing the output service/product for the received images.

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43. A method according to claims 42, wherein said identification data is service/product data indicative of a type of image product for the image, such that images are modified in accordance with the service/product data and an output device to which the image is to be sent.

44. A method according to claim 42, wherein said identification data is source data indicative of a source of said image.

45. A method according to claim 42, wherein said identification data is a unique consumer/retailer identifier.

46. A method according to claim 42, wherein said identification data is at least one of a product/service data, a source data and a unique consumer/retailer identifier.

47. A computer program product comprising:

a computer readable storage medium having a computer program thereon which when loaded into a computer causes the computer to manage a photofinishing workflow by performing the following steps:

determining an output service/product which will be produced in association with captured images; and

creating a virtual batch of the images based on at least the output service/product associated with the image, said virtual batch being indicative of an order sequence for completing the output service/product for the image.

48. A photofinishing method comprising the steps of:

receiving images at a photofinishing lab;

associating the images with identification data; and

creating a virtual batch of said images based on at least the identification data so as to provide for a sequence of completion of output image products associated with the images.

49. A method according to claim 48, wherein said identification data is product/service data indicative of a type of an output image product for the image, such that the images are modified in accordance with the product/service data and an output device to which the image is to be sent.

50. A method according to claim 48, wherein said identification data is source data indicative of a source of said image.

51. A method according to claim 48, wherein said identification data is a unique consumer/retailer identifier.

52. A method according to claim 48, wherein said identification data is at least one of a product/service data, a source data and a unique consumer/retailer identifier.

53. A photofinishing method comprising the steps of:

receiving images at a photofinishing lab in a first sequence;

converting non-digital images of said received images into a digital format, such that all of the images received at the photofinishing lab are in a common digital format; and

creating a virtual batch of the received images based on at least a common output product/service in a second sequence different than the first sequence.

54. A method according to claim 53, wherein each of the received images are associated with original orders which are in said first sequence, and said method comprises the further step of re-sequencing the original orders from said first sequence to said second sequence.